

REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiners Ghali and Kishore for the helpful and courteous interview extended to the undersigned, and to inventors Eric Silverberg and Paul Foreman.

Claim 1 has been amended to more distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention.

Support may be found, e.g., in the Examples. No new matter has been added. Entry is requested.

In order to expedite withdrawal of the outstanding rejections of the claims over U.S. Patent No. 6,077,527 (Tan et al.), applicants file herewith a terminal disclaimer.

With respect to the filing of this terminal disclaimer, it is noted that the applied Tan et al. patent reference shares common ownership with the subject application. Ownership of both the subject application and the Tan et al. patent resides in National Starch and Chemical Investment Holding Corporation.

Applicants also submit herewith a declaration filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131, wherein the inventors aver that the subject invention was made prior to the June 20, 2000 publication date of Tan et al.

Applicants submit that the application is in condition to be allowed. Early and favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia L. Foulke
Reg. No. 32,364

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National Starch and Chemical Company
10 Finderne Avenue
Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807-0500
Telephone No.: 908-685-7483